

551, 678

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property
Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
14 October 2004 (14.10.2004)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2004/088091 A1

(51) International Patent Classification⁷: **E21B 34/14**
(21) International Application Number: PCT/GB2004/001449
(22) International Filing Date: 31 March 2004 (31.03.2004)
(25) Filing Language: English
(26) Publication Language: English
(30) Priority Data:
0307521.5 1 April 2003 (01.04.2003) GB
0307724.5 3 April 2003 (03.04.2003) GB
0307825.0 4 April 2003 (04.04.2003) GB
0308080.1 8 April 2003 (08.04.2003) GB

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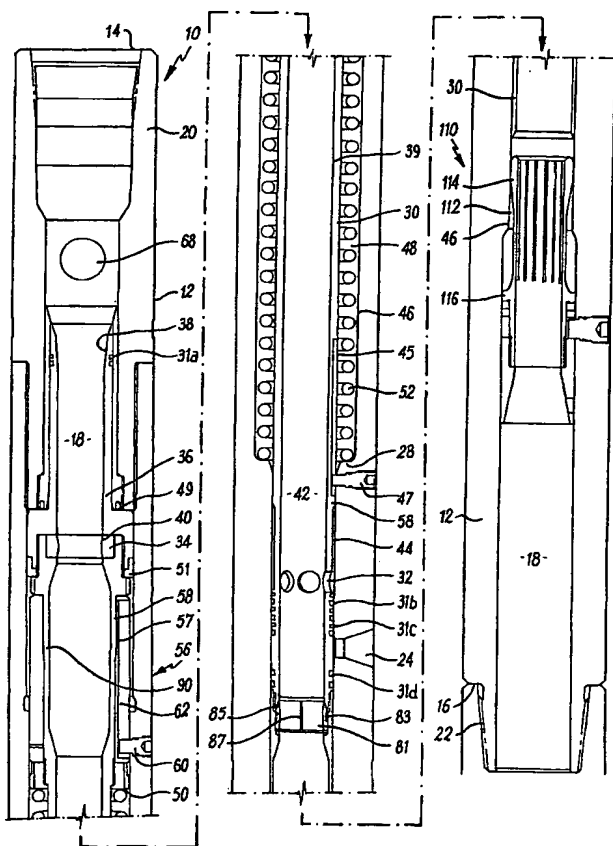
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(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD,

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(54) Title: **DOWNHOLE TOOL**



(57) Abstract: A downhole tool which can perform a task in a well bore, such as circulating fluid radially from the tool. The function is selectively performed by virtue of a sleeve moving within a central bore of the tool. Movement of the sleeve is effected by dropping a ball through a ball seat on the sleeve. Movement of the sleeve is controlled by an index sleeve such that the tool can be cycled back to the first operating position by dropping identical balls through the sleeve. Embodiments are described wherein the balls are deformable, the seat is deformable and the seat provides a helical channel through which the ball passes.

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MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:

- with international search report
- before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments

(84) **Designated States** (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK,

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